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COUNTRY Cuba

SUBJECT Possible Creation of Union General Trabajadores
by the AHO

DATE DISTR. 8 December 1948

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1. The Accion Revolucionaria Guiteras (ARG) is allegedly attempting to take over control of the Cuban labor situation, independently of the Comision Obrera Nacional (CON) and the Comité Obrero Nacional Independiente (CONI), by creating the Union General Trabajadores (UGT) as a central syndicate. (b) (7) Comment. According to a press report in Pueblo, Habana Daily, on 11 November 1948, the Executive Committee of the Sindicato de Motoristas y Conductores of the Habana Electric agreed to separate from the CTC and form another central syndicate if Angel Cofino's CONI did not give effective aid to Evelio Gil, government interventor of the Habana Electric Co.) Since the ARG has worked so closely and has accepted aid from Argentina, it is likely that this new organization will be quite openly "Peronista."
2. Lorenzo Porcet, Secretary-General of the Sindicato de Motoristas y Conductores, Marcos Irigoyen, Secretary of Syndical affairs for the ARG, Ramon Taboada, a syndicate official, and Evelio Gil were named on a committee to carry out preparatory organizational work for the UGT.
3. According to Bernardo Gomez, Secretary General of the Federacion Nacional Obrera del Transporte de Cuba, the plan to organize a UGT was acted upon with the cooperation of Trifon Gomez, Secretary of Foreign Relations of the International Federation of Transport Workers during the World Congress of Transport Workers held in Oslo, Norway, in July 1948. (b) (7) Comment. In March 1948 the CTC was advised from London that Trifon Gomez, formerly Secretary General of the Spanish UGT and later resident in England, was to be sent on an organizational trip through Latin American countries. One of his duties reportedly was to prepare Latin American delegates who were to attend the Oslo Congress. According to source, Trifon Gomez is a Spanish Socialist leader.) An individual who was present at almost all of the conference between Angel Cofino and Trifon Gomez denies that the contemplated UGT has received any assistance from Trifon Gomez or his International Transport Workers Federation.
4. Bernardo Gomez counts on the cooperation of the following syndicates in the formation of the UGT:
 - a) Sindicato de Motoristas y Conductores (b) (7) Comment. Source asserts that even this syndicate, which today is a bulwark of the A.G., is being penetrated by the Union Insurreccional

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Revolucionaria (UIR) which follows the CONI line.
However, ARG still safely controls this syndicate.)

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- b) Sindicato de Trabajadores de Expresos por Carretera
([REDACTED] Comment. This syndicate is controlled by Delio Batista, an anti-Communist presently affiliated with CON, who is opposed to politics in labor. If his syndicate has to take a definite stand, he may side with CONI. It is most unlikely that he will break away to join a new UGT.)
- c) Sindicato de Empleados y Obreros de Omnibus Aliados ([REDACTED] Comment. This organization, according to source, will probably stay with Cofino.)
- d) Sindicato Nacional de Choferes del Turismo ([REDACTED] Comment. This syndicate is insignificant since most of the workers of this category still belong to the Communist-controlled Sindicato de Choferes de Alquiler y Similares.)
- e) Other syndicates nearly all of which fall within the Federacion Nacional Obrera del Transporte.
5. It is doubtful if the ARG will be able to control as many syndicates as Gomez claims for them. However, their creation of a separate UGT is one of the first definite steps taken, as a result of Argentine influence, toward the possible establishment of a "third position" labor movement.

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